

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A measuring instrument for gravimetrically determining a moisture content of a sample, comprising an instrument housing, a balance with a weighing cell installed in the instrument housing, a tray carrier mounted on the weighing cell to hold a sample on a sample tray, a source of radiant heat arranged above the sample tray, and means for conducting a stream of air between the sample tray and the weighing cell, said means comprising an air duct; said radiant heat drying the sample and thereby causing the latter to lose weight; the balance being operable to monitor said weight loss and to therefrom determine the moisture content of the sample; wherein the air duct comprises an upper shell, which forms [[part]] only an upper wall of the air duct and is configured to be detached from the instrument housing for the purpose of cleaning the air duct.

2. (Original) The measuring instrument of claim 1, wherein the measuring instrument comprises means for fastening the upper shell to the instrument housing; and wherein said means for fastening are releasable, thereby allowing the upper shell to be removed from the instrument housing.

3. (Original) The measuring instrument of claim 1, wherein the upper shell is slidably mounted so that it can be pulled off in a forward direction.

4. (Original) The measuring instrument of claim 1, wherein the air duct has a U-shaped profile, closing off the instrument housing from above as well as laterally.

5. (Original) The measuring instrument of claim 1, wherein the air duct has at least one branch channel running near an electronic portion of the measuring instrument and serving to cool said electronic portion.

6. (Currently amended) A measuring instrument for gravimetrically determining a moisture content of a sample, comprising an instrument housing, a balance with a weighing cell installed in the instrument housing, a tray carrier mounted on the weighing cell to hold a sample on a sample tray, a source of radiant heat arranged above the sample tray, and means for conducting a stream of air between the sample tray and the weighing cell, said means comprising an air duct; said radiant heat drying the sample and thereby causing the latter to loose weight; the balance being operable to monitor said weight loss and to therefrom determine the moisture content of the sample; wherein the air duct comprises an upper shell mounted on top of the instrument housing and so as to form only an upper wall of the air duct that closes [[closing]] off the air duct from above; wherein the upper shell is hinged to a rear portion of the instrument housing, thereby allowing the upper shell to be tilted about a horizontal axis.

7. (Original) A measuring instrument for gravimetrically determining a moisture content of a sample, comprising an instrument housing, a balance with a weighing cell installed in the instrument housing, a tray carrier mounted on the weighing cell to hold a sample on a sample tray, a source of radiant heat arranged above the sample tray, and means for conducting a stream of air between the sample tray and the weighing cell, said means comprising an air duct; said radiant heat drying the sample and thereby causing the latter to lose weight; the balance being operable to monitor said weight loss and to therefrom determine the moisture content of the sample, wherein the air duct comprises a single-piece air duct unit, wherein the measuring instrument comprises means for fastening the single-piece air duct unit to the instrument housing, and wherein said means for fastening are releasable, thereby allowing the single-piece air duct unit to be removed from the instrument housing.

8. (New) The measuring instrument of claim 6, wherein the air duct has a U-shaped profile, closing off the instrument

housing from above as well as laterally.

9. (New) The measuring instrument of claim 6, wherein the air duct has at least one branch channel running near an electronic portion of the measuring instrument and serving to cool said electronic portion.

10. (New) The measuring instrument of claim 7, wherein the air duct has at least one branch channel running near an electronic portion of the measuring instrument and serving to cool said electronic portion.